

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/692,747

Examiner

Calvin L. Hewitt II

Applicant(s)

OGG ET AL.

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Interview with Applicant's rep. and Examiner's Amendment.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 16,18,20,21 and 23-28.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Status of Claims

1. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Raymond Tabandeh on 6 November 2006.

2. The Application has been amended as follows-

Claims 1-15, 17, 19, 22, and 29-47 have been canceled.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for printing a value bearing item (VBI) by a user using one or more computers connected to a computer network, the method comprising the steps of:

registering by the user with an on-line system for printing the VBI;

generating [secret] information specific to a first computer used by the user for registering with the on-line system, the [secret] information including a first hash message authentication key (HMK);

encrypting the first HMK using a key derived from a user passphrase;

storing the encrypted first HMK on the first computer;

[receiving user information and the secret information] sending the encrypted first HMK from the first computer [by] to a server system;

storing the received [secret information] encrypted first HMK on the server system;

using a second computer by the user to logon to the on-line system;

detecting that the second computer is missing an HMK;

generating [a second secret information including] a second encrypted HMK specific to the second computer;

[receiving a second secret information including a] sending the second encrypted HMK [specific to the second computer by] to the server system;

requesting the user to provide the user passphrase to the server;

authenticating at the server, the user on the second computer responsive to the passphrase and the second encrypted HMK; and

printing the VBI by the user responsive to the authentication of the user by the server.

In claim 18, replace "generating the HMK" with "generating the first HMK".

In claim 20, replace "encrypting the HMK" with "encrypting one of the first or second HMK".

In claim 21, replace "using the HMK" with "using one of the first or second HMK".

In claim 23, replace "changing the HMK" with "changing one of the first or second HMK".

In claim 24, replace "storing the secret key" with "storing one of the first or second HMK".

In claim 25, replace "storing the secret key" with "storing one of the first or second HMK".

3. Claims 16, 18, 20, 21, and 23-28 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

4. The instant application is directed to a method for securely printing value-bearing items. The printing of value bearing items is old and well known. For example, Kay (US 6,223,166) teaches a system for printing electronic tickets ('166, figures 1 and 4), while Walkingshaw et al. (US 5,488,423) teach downloading and printing coupons ('423, figure 3). Further, the Kay system is secure as the ticket sent to the user is encrypted ('166, figure 4). Lewis et al. (US 6,233,565) teach registering a user and allowing the registered user to print a VBI such as a postage indicia ('565, column/line 15/5-16/5; column/line 18/53-19/35). Lewis et al. also teach using cryptography for allowing a user to access a VBI ('565, column/line 30/51-31/44). The closest prior art of Heiden et al. (US 6,438,530) teach downloading a VBI to a user computer wherein said user is authorized to print the VBI if computer specific information is present on the user computer (abstract). Angelo et al. (US 6,581,162) teach using a password to generate an encryption key ('162, column 7, lines 15-22). However, the prior art does not singly or in combination teach or fairly suggest generating a hash message authentication key (HMK) at a first user computer and encrypting the

HMK using a key derived from a user passphrase, attempting by the user to log on to a second computer, detecting that the second computer lacks an HMK, generating a second HMK at the second computer, authenticating the user using the user passphrase and the second HMK at a server and printing the VBI based on the user authentication.

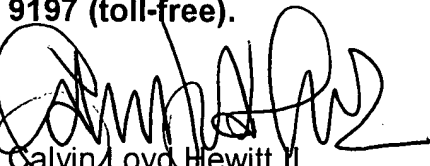
Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:
 - Hillegass et al. teach a postage meter with access control security
 - "Pitney Bowes Showcases Internet Messaging Solutions", Business Wire, October 7, 1998
6. Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Calvin Loyd Hewitt II whose telephone

number is (571) 272-6709. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Andrew Fischer, can be reached at (571) 272-6779.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see [<http://pair-direct.uspto.gov/>](http://pair-direct.uspto.gov/). Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Calvin Loyd Hewitt II
Primary Examiner